

Milestones

December 31, 2002

Beginning February 4, 2002

Day 5, February 8, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and A Healthier You 2002 announced that 120 Gold Medal Miles had been organized and walked throughout Utah communities from 2000-2002. More than 15,000 Utahns earned collector Gold Medal Mile Olympic pins for their effort. During the Olympic games an additional 25 Gold Medal Miles were held at Olympic venues where spectators earned approximately 67,000 Gold Medal Mile Pins. A Healthier You 2002 events will continue through the end of 2002.

Day 6, February 9, the UDOH received approval to provide 25,000 working adults in Utah with health insurance. This approval was personally approved by Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson and was signed in Salt Lake City during the Olympic Games.

Day 9, Feb.12, emergency on-call staff from the Bureau of Microbiology was activated to provide testing on a possible anthrax hit at the Salt Lake City Airport. DOH Laboratory microbiologists, working in partnership with CDC personnel, tested the sample using several different methods and determined it was not *Bacillus anthracis* or anthrax.

Day 57, April 1, the Community Partnered Mobile Dental Services was the reason Central and Eastern Utah Area Health Education Centers received the National AHEC award for 'Project of the Year' this year. AHEC added to the success of the mobile clinic by helping with volunteer recruitment, educational experiences, planning and local community coordination. The Community Partnered Mobile Dental Services has expanded rural care to a year-round schedule; due to an effective partnership with three Rural Community Health Centers and a very large Federal Grant that we were able to obtain together. Approximately 2,500 rural residents of 10 targeted communities receive care annually. We also visit Ibapah and Southeast Utah, Goshute and Navajo reservations annually.

Day 74, April 18, the UDOH announces the new State Epidemiologist, CDC trained Dr. Robert Rolfs, M.D., M.P.H., to guide the state's disease prevention and bioterrorism response efforts.

Day 87, May 1, A follow-up survey of Healthy Utah participants in Lighten Up weight management classes from March 2001 and November 2001 showed that 75 percent of those who changed at least one eating behavior during the class are still practicing that behavior: Results show that 90 percent are still active, 70 percent continue to eat an

increased number of fruits and/or vegetables and/or whole grains and, 85 percent have lost more weight or maintained their initial weight loss.

Day 90, May 4, the UDOH completes and releases a survey of more than 900 Hispanic adults in Utah. The report reveals striking differences between Hispanics and non-Hispanics for certain health conditions, risk behaviors, health care access and other major health related issues. Diabetes, obesity and access to health care were identified as major health issues for Hispanics.

Day 103, May 17, the UDOH's Truth From Youth Anti-Tobacco Campaign presented 41 awards for original anti-tobacco ads taken from 8,000 elementary, junior and high school entries.

Day 109, May 23, Utah ranked 3rd by the Anne E. Casey Foundation in the KIDS Count report for serving the needs of Utah's Children.

Day 109, May 23 - Utah's 52 Gold Medal School's finish up a successful first year with 24,783 elementary students walking more than 892,188 Gold Medal Miles! Thanks to the UDOH's Gold Medal School Initiative, this past school year has seen both students and teachers getting healthier throughout the state.

Day 118, June 1, the Early Childhood Target Case Management (TCM) service celebrates its first year. This service is available to children born to women enrolled in the Medicaid program. Children receive a visit from a Public Health Nurse (PHN) trained to assess risk factors, identify related needs and make referrals based on their findings. Providing this link to services helps meet the needs of the child during their first year. In the past year 2,386 Medicaid children received a visit from a Public Health Nurse (PHN) resulting in over 3,000 referrals to local community resources.

Day 120, June 3-14, the UDOH held its first open enrollment for Utah's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and received 6,078 applications representing 13,505 children. Eighteen percent of the applications were submitted online. During the two-week open enrollment period 6,249 children were eligible to receive benefits bringing CHIP enrollment to 22,702.

Day 121, June 4, UDOH Laboratory hosted five state laboratory directors, who toured the laboratory. The states they represented were, South Dakota, Vermont, Florida, Arkansas and Connecticut. These directors were particularly interested in the laboratory's experience during the Winter Olympics.

Day 124, June 7, the Baby Watch Interagency Coordinating Council for children with disabilities completed a year-long project to promote interagency coordination for infant-toddler mental health. This resulted in a Better Baby Care grant award from Johnson

and Johnson to print the project committee's Utah Guide to Infant-Toddler Mental Health Services.

Day 130, June 13, the UDOH released Utah's Arthritis Report and Utah's Arthritis Plan. These documents represent the first comprehensive report on arthritis prevalence and risk in Utah and a plan to address the burden of arthritis in Utah, respectively. It was previously recognized that arthritis is the largest cause of disability in the US, but little was known about arthritis in Utah. Utah's Arthritis Report presents data indicating that nearly 30% of Utah adults have arthritis and it is a primary cause of disability. Now, with the release of Utah's Arthritis Plan, the UDOH and its partners have taken an important step towards a coordinated effort to reduce the burden of arthritis in Utah.

Day 143, June 26, *Hispanic Health in Utah: A Survey Report* was released. The report represents a collaborative effort of all programs in the Bureau of Health Promotion and the Immunization Program to identify and address important health issues among the Hispanic population in Utah. The report includes information on health status, health care access, injuries, preventive care, and lifestyle behaviors.

Day 147, June 30, The UDOH released new data on the percent of Utahns who are without health insurance. In 2001, 8.7% of people were without health insurance compared to 9.5% in 1996. These data come from the Health Status Survey, which was conducted every 5 years until 2001, and will now be conducted annually. In 2001, the survey was improved, and that may account for some of the decrease in uninsured people in Utah. Improving this measure will help UDOH to better track the uninsured in Utah.

Day 147, June 30, more than 13,000 Utahns called the Utah Tobacco Quit Line for help. Demand was so impressive that, at times, Utah's call volumes met or exceeded those of states with larger populations and higher tobacco use rates. More than 25% of those who enrolled in counseling services were able to quit. Research shows only 6% of smokers are able to quit without help.

Day 148, July 1, immunization requirements for school entry in Utah now include the hepatitis A and chickenpox vaccines. Beginning July 1, 2002, two doses of the hepatitis A vaccine and one dose of the chickenpox vaccine will be required for all kindergarten age children to protect against preventable diseases. The UDOH rolled out the change with information to parents, teachers and the community.

Day 148, July 1, the UDOH launched the Primary Care Network welcoming 25,000 working Utah Adults to health insurance. This new form of Medicaid coverage is the first of its kind in the nation. PCN will remain open to eligible adults until 25,000 adults are covered. To date, the program has accepted almost 25,000 applications; 11 percent of which were submitted online. So far, over 8,000 applicants have been approved.

Day 158, July 11, the UDOH launches an Olympic Public Health list serve linking public health officials from past and future host cities and bid cities. This will allow more timely and complete sharing of lessons learned and access to consultation regarding the major public health impacts of hosting the games including emergency medical services, disease monitoring, food and environmental regulation, public information, health promotion, and disaster preparedness.

Day 178, July 31, the UDOH received final approval from the Centers for Disease Control to begin utilizing \$9.97 million in federal funds to prevent and respond to acts of bioterrorism to enhance public health systems and resources. The CDC grant will provide personnel, training and resources to state and local health departments. The grant's six sections infrastructure building in planning, epidemiology, laboratory, professional development, public risk communication and information dissemination and expansion of the Health Alert Network.

Day 192, August 14, public health leaders from Utah and Nevada signed a memorandum of understanding between the two states to formally establish the Great Basin Public Health Leadership Institute. By October 31, 2004, the first class of the Great Basin Public Health Leadership Institute will have selected the first class and initiated leadership education in Utah and Nevada.

Day 200, August 22, the UDOH announces the creation of the State agency's Health Advisory Council (HAC). The Governor-appointed, nine-member council will assist the Department on strategic direction and be a sounding board for the public. The HAC will assist the Executive Director's Office in setting Department priorities and advising on budget and policy issues. Dr. George White, PhD., Chair of the University of Utah Department of Community and Family Health has been appointed Chair of the Council.

Day 210, The Utah Center for Birth Defects Research and Prevention is one of ten centers (7 fully funded, 2 with one year of funding remaining and CDC) that will participate in a large case control study investigating risk factors both environmentally and genetically that contribute to the etiology of birth defects. The Utah Center will contribute a minimum of 300 cases of many types of birth defects without a known etiology (genetic or chromosomal) and 150 controls each year of the five-year study. It is the hope of the Utah Center as well as the other centers that other 'folic acids' are discovered.

Day 226, September 17, the second annual Tobacco Report, "Real People, Real Savings, Real Results," was issued by the UDOH Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Notable results include: a decline in the rate of smoking for both adults and youth; 13,000 calls to the Quit Line; and about 20,000 Utah students participated in evidence-based anti-tobacco classes.

Day 227, September 18-20, microbiologists with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Laboratory in Region 8, located in Denver, were trained by the staff at the UDOH Laboratory in clinical microbiology and bio-safety.

Day 237, September 28, the UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion and the 5 A Day Program built the World's Largest Cornucopia in West Jordan. The promotion brought attention to the latest national 5 A Day Association recommendation of eating 5-9 fruits and vegetables at day. In Utah, 54% of adults are obese or overweight and eating more fruits and vegetables leads to healthier weights especially when combined with exercise.

Day 240, October 1, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program at the Utah Department of Health launched it's new phase of the "Truth About Tobacco" campaign; "I Did It!" The colorful, upbeat advertisements feature ex-smokers from Utah who have successfully quit and are now reaping the benefits. The campaign will run until June 2003. Viewers who smoke are encouraged to call the Utah Tobacco Quit Line for help in quitting, and those who have quit are encouraged to share their story through the Ididit.tv website.

Day 246, October 7, the UDOH hosted the Olympic public health delegation from Beijing, China, to share public health planning and lessons learned during the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympic Games.

Day 253, October 14, the UDOH and Utah AWARE launched a yearlong project to focus efforts in child care settings to reduce inappropriate use of antibiotics. Overuse of antibiotics creates drug resistant strains and may someday make antibiotics ineffective.

Day 255, October 16, the UDOH Cardiovascular Program releases its first report on Cardiovascular Disease in Utah. The report, *Cardiovascular Disease in Utah; Milestone 2002*, shows that an average of 3,800 Utahns die each year from heart disease, stroke, and high blood pressure. And an even greater number are left incapacitated by congestive heart failure, heart attack, and coronary artery disease.

Day 268, October 29, Dr. Scott D. Williams, UDOH Deputy Director gave a presentation at the International Olympic Committee's 9th World Sport for All Congress 2002 describing A Healthier You 2002- Utah's Health Legacy. This was the first comprehensive community health promotion program conducted in conjunction with the Olympic games.

Day 283, November 13, the Early Childhood Council conducted a highly successful summit in Salt Lake City with presentations by First Lady Mrs. Leavitt, Dr. Joan Lombardi, Dr. Mark Innocenti, and Dr. Adrienne Akers. The summit was a collaborative effort from the Early Childhood Council and resulted in networking among various agencies and groups across the state and produced many ideas related to coordinating

and promoting efforts to enhance early childhood health and development. The council is comprised of representatives from many state departments as well as community organizations. An Early Childhood Blueprint for Progress for Utah will be developed from the action planning information gathered at the summit.

Day 284, November 14, a UnitedHealth Foundation State Health Rankings Report ranked Utah as the fourth healthiest state in the nation. Utah's strengths include the lowest prevalence of smoking in the country at 13.2 percent of the population, the lowest risk for heart disease at 19 percent below the national average, the lowest rate of heart disease at 197.9 deaths per 100,000 population and the lowest cancer deaths at 167.8 deaths per 100,000 population. Utah is among the top 10 states for low violent crime, strong high school graduation rates, few limited activity days, low total mortality, low infant mortality and a low rate of premature death.

Day 292, November 22, During UDOH's second open enrollment for CHIP, which ended November 22nd, 45% of applications were submitted online. Applications are still being processed, but to date, 9,359 total applications were received, 4,191 of them via the Internet. Applicants to the Primary Care Network, a health insurance program for adults who can't afford private insurance and qualify based on age and income, are also applying online. Since PCN began in July of 2002, 11% of applicants have submitted their applications online.

Day 306, December 6, 42 Community Health Indicators, and 81 Public Health Outcome Measures published and available to the public on Utah's IBIS-PH website (Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health, <http://health.utah.gov/ibis-ph>). IBIS data updated to include the following: Utah population estimates data from Census 2000 and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, including estimates for 1990-2005 for 61 small geographic areas; Utah death certificate data from 1980 through 2001; birth certificate data from 1989 through 2001; inked birth and infant death data from 1989 through 2001; hospital discharge data from 1992 through 2001; and emergency department data from 1999 and 2000. Utah is a national leader in provision of interactive public health data retrieval capacity.

Day 308, December 9, Utah Statewide Immunization Information System (USIIS) exceeded one million patient records in its database for the first time since its implementation. A total of 1,028,451 total patient records were reported. Health care providers at hundreds of locations statewide were using USIIS over the Web to coordinate the immunizations of Utah children."

Day 313, December 13, Now in it's second year, the Gold Medal School Initiative is thriving in more than 100 elementary schools statewide with 49,024 elementary students walking more than 1,284,380 Gold Medal Miles! Thanks, to the UDOH's Gold Medal School Initiative, for promoting healthier students and teachers throughout the state.

Day 320, December 20, A first-year summary of Utah's patient safety initiative was released by the Utah Department of Health (UDOH), Utah Hospitals and Health Systems Association (UHA), and HealthInsight. The UDOH's patient safety rules that took effect October 1, 2001, require hospitals and outpatient surgical centers to report adverse medical and drug events and to have programs to improve patient safety. There are two kinds of adverse events that are currently reported under the Utah rules; adverse drug events (ADEs) and sentinel events. Utah is one of 20 states that require medical error reporting. By reporting these events we can begin to identify ways to eliminate errors and further improve delivery of care.

Day 323, December 23, The UDOH began airing its first ever-animated ad to illustrate the pitfalls of smoking by telling story from the two vultures' point of view. The ad is the first of two featuring the vulture characters and ends with the tagline, "Smoking. It's a dangerous road." Animation was selected for the new target group, as this is the first time that the UDOH has targeted mass media messages to kids under 8 years old. Children begin smoking at an average age of 12 years -- the sooner we reach those kids, the more successful we will be in preventing them from using tobacco later in life.

This list will be updated monthly and is available at www.health.utah.gov
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